CONTENTS

List of tables i - ii
List of figures iii

CHAPTERS

1. INTRODUCTION 1 -14
1.1 Background of the Study 1
1.2 Micro Enterprises - A Definition 5
1.3 Objectives of the Study and Research Questions 8
1.4 Methodology 9
1.5 Layout of the Thesis 11

2. CONCEPTUAL ISSUES AND THEORITICAL BACKGROUND 15-25
2.1 Theoretical Background 15
2.2 Rural Non-Farm Enterprise Sector- A Concept 20
2.3 Role of Rural Non-Farm Micro Enterprises 22

3. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY MICRO ENTERPRISES- AN EXRACTION FROM EMRICAL STUDIES 26-52
3.1 Introduction 26
3.2 Constraints Encountered by Micro Entrepreneurs 26
3.3 Conclusion 48

4. STATUS OF RURAL NON-FARM MICRO ENTERPRISES IN ASSAM VIS-A-VIS SONITPUR DISTRICT 53-69
4.1 Introduction 53
4.2 Dimension of Rural Non-Farm Micro Enterprises in Assam and in Sonitpur District 54
4.3 Status of Rural Non-Farm Micro Enterprises and Employment therein in Assam vis-à-vis in Sonitpur District 58
4.4 Conclusion 68
5. PROFILE OF THE BROAD FILED STUDY AREA
   5.1 Geography
   5.2 Administration Division
   5.3 Demographic Features
   5.4 The Economy
   5.5 Conclusion

6. GENERAL BACKGROUND OF THE SAMPLE AREA
   AND NON-FARM MICRO ENTERPRISES SECTOR IN IT.
   6.1 Sample Selection of Blocks and Villages
   6.2 Profiles of Sample Blocks
   6.3 Demographic and Workers Profile of Sample Villages
   6.4 Mapping of RNF Activities in the Sample Villages
   6.5 Sector Wise Distribution of RNF Micro Enterprises in the Sample Villages
   6.6 Selection of RNF Micro Enterprises from the Sample Villages
   6.7 Profile of Sample Micro Enterprises
   6.8 Conclusion

7. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF SAMPLE MICRO ENTERPRISES.
   7.1 Introduction
   7.2 Factors Behind the Growth of RNF Micro Enterprises
   7.3 Production Related Aspects
   7.4 Pattern of Finance
   7.5 Marketing Aspects
   7.6 Performance of RNF Sample Micro Enterprise Units
   7.7 Capacity Building Needs.
   7.8 Conclusion.

8. ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF RNF MICRO ENTERPRISES TO THE RURAL ECONOMY OF SONITPUR DISTRICT
   8.1 Introduction
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.2 Gross Value Addition of RNF Micro Enterprises of Sonitpur District</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.3 Contribution to Employment</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4 Conclusion</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Micro Entrepreneurial Activity to a Visible Industry - A Case Study</td>
<td>130-133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Summary of Findings, Conclusions and Policy Implications</td>
<td>134-146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bibliography**

[Page 147-155]

**Annexure-1**

[Page 156-161]